

The Kimmel Family

Reaching Romania for Christ

January 2011

Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. (Psalm 147:1)

We have been so blessed since our last prayer letter. The holiday season went by rather quickly as we were in the midst of preparing to move. But in the midst of the busyness we found time to visit with dear Romanian friends, attend special services throughout Christmas week, and watch Celeste and Amber participate in Christmas programs at school and church. Also the Lord was with us throughout the whole process of moving our home from Timisoara to Alesd the first week in January. Everything arrived safely, and the weather, though cold, was not a hindrance. Praise the Lord for His goodness!

New Home in Alesd

Last time we asked you to pray for the Lord to provide housing for us near where we will be working and closer to our teammates. We started out looking for a home to rent in Oradea in early November. One place stood out from the rest, and we were very close to signing a contract. We were delayed from returning to Oradea to sign the contract because of sickness in our family. In the meantime a friend told us about a home that was available in Alesd, a small town of about 10,000 located 40 minutes east of Oradea in northwest Romania. The owners are believers, and they have been living in Austria for the past three years. They were happy to be able to help us and offered us a very reasonable rent. They also gave us permission to make modifications to the home to better suit our needs. What we like most about Alesd is that it is only 15 minutes from Luncsoara, where we will be working long-term.

Luke Warner had encouraged us to take our time to find the home the Lord wanted us to have. Looking back at the way everything came together and the fact that the owners have been so wonderful to work with we are convinced that this home is from the Lord. Our new field address is:

David Kimmel
Str. Bobalna, Nr. 88
Alesd, 415100
Romania

Language Progress

We spent our first year in Timisoara to learn Romanian before beginning ministry. Now that we are in Alesd, our language work will continue on a more informal basis. In Alesd there are fewer people who know English, which means we will be using our Romanian even more.

Celeste and Amber finished their time in Romanian school the week of Christmas. They had a great experience, and both girls

became much more conversant in Romanian, which is exactly what we had hoped. Now they can play and interact with the new children they are meeting on a regular basis. Ruth has resumed homeschooling, but we may explore Romanian school again in the fall.

Mentorship and Assisting in Luncsoara

This past Sunday was our first time to go to Luncsoara as a family. The people made us feel very welcome, and after the service our girls begged us to stay for a while so they could explore the village with the children. Despite the very poor living conditions and muddy roads, the Gypsy children are always happy and smiling. Our girls instantly started making friends largely because they could converse in Romanian. They are very excited about going back every week.

While our primary responsibility will be in Luncsoara, we will also be starting a mentorship with Tim and Sandy Fink this month. The Warners had a similar mentorship last year, and it was extremely helpful both in the language and gaining ministry experience. This will also prepare us to assist while the Finks are on furlough later this year.

Team Meeting Recap

Our team meeting in October went very well. We had a lot of help from fellow BMM missionary, Ken Houghten, who facilitated the sessions. Our field administrator, Vernon Rosenau and his wife, Jan, were also there to give insight from other teams who had previously completed strategic plans. We left with a five-year strategic plan, a field council, as well as a team constitution. Dave was elected to serve as treasurer while Ruth was elected secretary. Dave was also nominated to maintain the strategic plan and send periodic reminders.

Praises

- Fruitful team retreat and strategic planning.
- Completion of a year of language study in Timisoara.
- A home to rent in Alesd close to our ministry location.
- Safety moving our household to Alesd January 5-6.
- The Gravleys reached full support and will arrive Feb. 8.

Prayer Requests

- New friends and opportunities to minister in Alesd.
- Wisdom as we embark on new ministry responsibilities with the Finks and Warners.
- Safe arrival of the Gravleys and suitable housing.

Please continue to pray for us as we transition to ministry.

Dave, Ruth, Celeste, and Amber